

CLAIMS

We claim:

- 1 1. A video viewing system, comprising;
2 a display screen for viewing a video program in
3 progress;
4 at least one summary frame superimposed on said
5 display screen along with said video program in
6 progress, said at least one summary frame comprising a
7 past frame from said video program in progress.
- 1 2. A video viewing system as recited in claim 1
2 wherein said selecting said at least one summary frame
3 displays a video segment on said viewing screen
4 corresponding to said summary frame.
- 1 3. A video viewing system as recited in claim 1
2 comprising a plurality of said summary frames each
3 corresponding to a past frame from said video program
4 in progress.
- 1 4. A video viewing system as recited in claim 1
2 further comprising at least one preview frame
3 comprising a future frame from said video program in
4 progress.
- 1 5. A video viewing system as recited in claim 1
2 wherein selecting said at least one summary frame
3 hyperlinks the video program in progress to begin
4 playing from said selected summary frame.

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1 6. A video viewing system as recited in claim 4
2 wherein selecting one of said summary frame and said
3 preview frame hyperlinks the video program in progress
4 to begin playing from said selected one of said summary
5 frame and said preview frame.

1 7. A user interactive video viewing system, comprising:
2 a display screen for viewing a video program;
3 at least one summary frame superimposed on said
4 display screen, said at least one summary frame
5 comprising one of a past or future frame from said
6 program;
7 a control means for allowing a user to change said
8 video program and for allowing said user to select said
9 at least one summary frame to play at least a segment
10 of said video program corresponding to said selected
11 summary frame.

1 8. A user interactive video viewing system as recited
2 in claim 7 wherein said viewing system comprises a
3 television system.

1 9. A user interactive video viewing system as recited
2 in claim 8 wherein said summary frames remain on said
3 display screen when said video program is preempted.

1 10. A user interactive video viewing system as recited
2 in claim 8 wherein the user can delete said summary
3 frames from said display screen.

1 11. A user interactive video viewing system as recited
2 in claim 7 wherein said viewing system comprises client

3 connected to a server.

1 12. A user interactive video viewing system as recited
2 in claim 11 wherein selecting said at least one said
3 summary frame hyperlinks said server to start playing
4 said video from said summary frame.

1 13. A method for informing a viewer of the content of
2 a video program in progress, comprising the steps of:
3 selecting a plurality of summary frames depicting
4 selected events from a video program;
5 embedding said summary frames in said video
6 program;
7 transmitting said video program comprising said
8 summary frames over a media; and
9 displaying said video program comprising said
10 summary frames on a screen.

1 14. A method for informing a viewer of the content of
2 a video program in progress as recited in claim 13,
3 further comprising the steps:
4 displaying a video segment corresponding to a
5 particular summary frame when said summary frame is
6 selected by a viewer; and
7 resuming said video program when said video
8 segment has finished.

1 15. A method for informing a viewer of the content of
2 a video program in progress as recited in claim 13,
3 comprising the steps of:
4 hyperlinking to a corresponding portion in said
5 video program when a particular summary frame is

6 selected by a viewer; and
7 playing said video program from said corresponding
8 portion in said video program.

1 16. A method for informing a viewer of the content of a
2 video program in progress as recited in claim 13,
3 comprising the step of continuing to display said
4 summary frames when said video program is preempted.

1 17. A method for informing a viewer of the content of
2 a video program in progress as recited in claim 13,
3 wherein said selecting step comprises the steps of:
4 scanning a first frame of said video and
5 designating said first frame as a key frame;
6 scanning a next frame in said video;
7 comparing said next frame to said keyframe with a
8 difference function,
9 if a result of said difference function is
10 negative scanning another frame in said video,
11 if said result of said difference function is
12 true, then designating said next frame as said key
13 frame;
14 comparing said key frame with summary frames
15 currently being displayed to find one with a smallest
16 difference; and
17 replacing said one with a smallest difference
18 with said key frame.

1 18. A method for informing a viewer of the content of
2 a video program in progress as recited in claim 13,
3 further comprising the steps of:
4 writing selected frames from said selecting step

